United Nations S/2014/291

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 April 2014
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 21 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 3 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2014/143), I have the honour to transmit the following information:

The United Arab Emirates strongly rejects and objects to the baseless claim made by the Islamic Republic of Iran to sovereignty over the three United Arab Emirates islands of Lesser Tunb, Greater Tunb and Abu Musa in the Arabian Gulf. The three islands are under the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates and constitute an integral part of its territory.

The United Arab Emirates wishes to state that, since the round of negotiations held between the two countries in Doha from 18 to 21 November 1995, and thereafter in diplomatic correspondence, the Islamic Republic of Iran has persistently alleged that there is a "misunderstanding" on the part of the United Arab Emirates in that regard. The United Arab Emirates categorically rejects that allegation. It has consistently maintained that the issue at hand is the continuing illegal Iranian military occupation of the islands of Lesser Tunb and Greater Tunb and the Iranian authorities' systematic and flagrant violation of the 1971 memorandum of understanding regarding the island of Abu Musa with a view to its forcible annexation under Iranian sovereignty.

In accordance with its obligation to the peaceful settlement of disputes as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the United Arab Emirates calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to resume negotiations between the two countries on the basis of the elements proposed by the United Arab Emirates at the Abu Dhabi meeting of 27 and 28 September 1992 and the Doha meeting of 18 to 21 November 1995.

Those elements are as follows:

1. The illegal Iranian military occupation of the islands of Lesser Tunb and Greater Tunb should be brought to an end.

2. There should be no interference in the exercise by the United Arab Emirates of its jurisdiction over the part of the island of Abu Musa allocated to it under the 1971 memorandum of understanding.

Please recycle

3. All of the measures imposed by the Iranian authorities on the authorities of the United Arab Emirates and its citizens on Abu Musa in contravention of the 1971 memorandum of understanding should be rescinded.

4. The dispute regarding the three islands should be referred to the International Court of Justice if the two countries fail to reach a negotiated solution within an agreed time frame.

The United Arab Emirates wishes to establish good-neighbourly relations and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, but does not accept any encroachment on its sovereignty over its three islands of Lesser Tunb, Greater Tunb and Abu Musa.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lana Zaki **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative